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ABSTRACT

This book examines civic capacity and urban education politics in 11 large cities, highlighting change at the citywide level. Chapter 1, "The Scope of the Problem," introduces the subject. Chapter 2, "The Challenge of Change in Complex Policy Subsystems," suggests that education may be a "high-reverberation" policy subsystem, in which institutionalizing change is difficult. Chapter 3, "The Urban Context: A First Look at the Case Cities," describes the cities (population, race, income, parent's education, city versus suburb, fiscal context, and demographic contributors to weakened public school constituencies). Chapter 4, "Civic Mobilization in Eleven Cities," discusses open collaboration and collective engagement, noting underlying sources of civic mobilization and local history as a conditioning force. Chapter 5, "Conducting Policy in an Ill-Structured Problem Space," examines different understandings of the education problem, noting the relationship between civic mobilization in cities and the understandings of those cities' elites. Chapter 6, "Civic Mobilization and Policy Effort," discusses how civic mobilization leads to better education for urban youth, highlighting systemic reform. Chapter 7, "Implications and Recommendations," discusses a new perspective, lessons for collective problem solving, and applications to contemporary education debates. (SM)

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